

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 112174
ORIGIN DHA-02

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DRAFTED BY D/HA/PW:FASIEVERTS:JS
APPROVED BY D/HA - MS. DERIAN
IO/UNP - MR. HEWITT (SUBS)
L/AF - MR. MATHESON (SUBS)
AID/NESA/ME - MR. NANCE (INFO)
EA/VLC - MR. ROSENTHAL (SUBS)
AF - MR. EDMONDSON (SUBS)
S/S:MR. SEBASTIAN
-----162330Z 028550 /75
O 162154Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 112174

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OVIP, HA

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMO FOR THE SECRETARY

TO: THE SECRETARY

FROM: D/HA - PATT DERIAN

SUBJ: YOUR MEETING WITH ICRC PRESIDENT ALEXANDRE HAY,
-- MAY 18-20, GENEVA

PARTICIPANTS:

-- US ICRC

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THE SECRETARY PRESIDENT HAY
-- DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS JEAN-
-- PIERRE HOCKE
-- SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE
-- PRESIDENT PESTALOZZI

CHECKLIST:

-- POLITICAL PRISONERS - THANK ICRC FOR ITS EFFORTS TO VISIT DETAINEES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

-- AFRICA - ASK HAY ABOUT HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS IN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA.

-- LEBANON - THANK ICRC FOR ITS ASSISTANCE DURING RECENT CIVIL STRIFE (TO WHICH USG CONTRIBUTED \$4 MILLION).

-- VIETNAM - THANK ICRC FOR ITS EFFORTS TO ARRANGE FAMILY REUNIONS.

-- FINANCES - TELL ICRC OF SENATOR PELL'S INITIATIVE TO INCREASE USG ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO \$1 MILLION.

-- DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON LAWS OF WAR - THANK ICRC FOR ITS EFFORTS TO UP-DATE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949.

SETTING:

-- ALEXANDRE HAY BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC ON 1 JULY 1976 AND TOOK THE ADDITIONAL TITLE OF EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT ON 1 JANUARY 1977 WITH THE RETIREMENT OF ROGER GALLOPIN. GALLOPIN MET SECRETARY KISSINGER IN GENEVA IN 1975 (ALSO DURING A GROMYKO MEETING) FOR A DISCUSSION PRIMARILY ON THE MIDDLE EAST. PREVIOUS ICRC PRESIDENT MARCEL NAVILLE MET PRESIDENT NIXON IN WASHINGTON IN 1972. HAY ASKED TO SEE PRESIDENT CARTER WHEN HE WAS IN GENEVA FOR THE ASSAD
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MEETING MAY 9, BUT THIS DID NOT WORK OUT.

-- FRANK SIEVERTS AND I CALLED ON ICRC DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS HOCKE MAY 6 WHEN I WAS IN GENEVA EN ROUTE TO THE CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING IN ABIDJAN. (HAY WAS IN HELSINKI FOR THE CENTENARY OF THE FINNISH RED CROSS.) HOCKE DESCRIBED THE ICRC'S LITTLE PUBLICIZED ROLE IN VISITING POLITICAL DETAINEES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, WHICH COORDINATES WELL WITH OUR HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS. ALTHOUGH THE ICRC CONTINUES ITS ASSISTANCE TO POW'S AND WAR VICTIMS IN ARMED CONFLICTS, IN RECENT YEARS ITS VISITS TO POLITICAL DETAINEES HAVE BECOME ITS MAJOR ACTIVITY. I MET WITH THE ICRC DELEGATE IN BUENOS AIRES WHEN I WAS THERE IN MARCH AND WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED WITH THE EFFORTS HE IS MAKING TO VISIT POLITICAL DETAINEES. I HOPE YOU WILL GIVE PRESIDENT HAY MY GREETINGS AND TELL HIM I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING HIM SOON.

ISSUES/TALKING POINTS:

1. POLITICAL PRISONERS: UNLIKE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD (E.G. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL) THE ICRC CONCENTRATES ON UNPUBLICIZED EFFORTS TO ARRANGE VISITS TO POLITICAL PRISONERS AT THEIR PLACES OF DETENTION, WITHOUT ADVANCE NOTICE, WHEREVER POSSIBLE INCLUDING INTER-VIEWS WITHOUT WITNESSES. REPORTS ON THESE VISITS ARE SENT TO THE DETAINING COUNTRY BUT ARE NOT PUBLICIZED BY THE ICRC. SOMETIMES THE DETAINING COUNTRY PUBLICIZES THE ICRC REPORTS TO TRY TO DEMONSTRATE THAT PRISON CONDITIONS ARE ACCEPTABLE; IN SUCH CASES, THE ICRC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RELEASE COMPLETE REPORTS.

U.S. POSITION:

-- WE RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE THE ICRC'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO VISIT POLITICAL DETAINEES. PRESIDENT CARTER'S
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COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS GIVES US SPECIAL GROUNDS TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION FOR YOUR HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS. (MR. HAY HAS A COPY OF YOUR LAW DAY SPEECH.)

2. AFRICA: HAY VISITED RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA IN APRIL BUT FAILED IN EFFORTS TO ARRANGE ICRC VISITS TO PRISONERS IN THOSE COUNTRIES. IN SOUTH AFRICA HE SAW VORSTER AND THE MINISTERS OF JUSTICE, HEALTH AND DEFENSE, BUT THEY REFUSED TO PERMIT VISITS WITHOUT WITNESSES OR ADVANCE NOTICE, SO NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED. THERE WAS SIMILAR LACK OF SUCCESS IN RHODESIA. THIS IS A MATTER OF PERSONAL CONCERN TO HAY, AND HE MAY SEEK YOUR HELP IN PRESSURING THOSE GOVERNMENTS TO ALLOW ICRC VISITS.

U.S. POSITION:

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-- E ENCOURAGE

THE ICRC TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO ARRANGE VISITS TO POLITICAL DETAINEES IN SOUTH AFRICA AS WELL AS IN RHODESIA, AND WOULD BE GLAD TO DISCUSS THIS WITH THOSE GOVERNMENTS IF THIS WOULD BE USEFUL.

3. LEBANON: THE ICRC WAS THE ONLY INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FUNCTIONING IN LEBANON THROUGHOUT THE RECENT CIVIL STRIFE. THE ICRC CONDUCTED A MEDICAL SUPPLY AIRLIFT TO LEBANON ALMOST UNINTERRUPTEDLY EVEN WHEN THE BEIRUT AIR FIELD WAS OFFICIALLY CLOSED. THE U.S. CONTRIBUTED \$4 MILLION FROM USAID FUNDS TO ICRC IN SUPPORT OF THIS PROGRAM.

U.S. POSITION:

-- RESTATE OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE ICRC'S PROGRAM IN LEBANON.

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4. VIETNAM: THE VIETNAMESE TOLD THE WOODCOCK COMMISSION, AND REPEATED IN PARIS MAY 3-4, THAT THE RED CROSS SHOULD WORK ON REUNION OF FAMILIES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND VIETNAM. THE ICRC HAS A LIST OF 150 SUCH CASES, INCLUDING 30 CHILDREN WHO ARE THEMSELVES AMERICAN CITIZENS, SOME WITH U.S. PASSPORTS.

U.S. POSITION:

-- WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE ICRC'S EFFORTS WITH THE VIETNAMESE AND AMERICAN RED CROSS TO HELP REUNITE FAMILIES SEPARATED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE INDOCHINA CONFLICT. THERE IS UNFORTUNATELY NO SIGN THAT THE VIETNAMESE ARE PREPARED TO ALLOW SUCH RELATIVES TO DEPART, BUT WE HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE YOUR EFFORTS.

5. FINANCES: THE ICRC IS CHRONICALLY SHORT OF FUNDS AND HAS BEEN WORKING SINCE HAY TOOK OFFICE TO OBTAIN INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT OF GERMANY TOLD HAY EARLIER THIS YEAR THAT HE WOULD RAISE THIS SUBJECT DURING THE LONDON SUMMIT, BUT AS FAR AS WE KNOW HE DID NOT DO SO. THE U.S. ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION IS NOW \$500,000, WHICH IS SUPPLEMENTED BY SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SPECIFIC PROGRAMS (E.G. LEBANON, INDOCHINA). AT SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL'S INITIATIVE THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE LAST WEEK INCREASED THE AUTHORIZED U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO \$1 MILLION PER ANNUM.

U.S. POSITION:

-- WE RECOGNIZE THE ICRC'S FUND-RAISING NEEDS. THE U.S. CONGRESS HAS BEEN GENEROUS IN THE PAST IN SUPPORT OF THE ICRC, AND IS NOW TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO INCREASE THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO \$1 MILLION PER ANNUM. WE HOPE OTHER GOVERNMENTS WILL SIMILARLY INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.

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6. DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE: GEORGE ALDRICH IS CHAIRMAN OF

THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE FOURTH AND FINAL SESSION OF THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE IN GENEVA ON HUMANITARIAN LAW ON ARMED CONFLICTS DRAFTING NEW PROTOCOLS TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949.

U.S. POSITION:

-- WE APPRECIATE THE ICRC'S ROLE IN ORGANIZING AND SUPPORTING THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE AND SHARE THE HOPE THAT A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION WILL BE REACHED AT THIS FINAL SESSION.

BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON MR. HAY: BEFORE JOINING THE ICRC, ALEXANDRE HAY WAS VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER OF THE SWISS NATIONAL BANK, EQUIVALENT TO OUR FEDERAL RESERVE. IN THIS CAPACITY HE WAS FREQUENTLY IN WASHINGTON TO ATTEND BANK AND FUND MEETINGS. HE IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH ARTHUR BURNS AND OTHER AMERICAN BANKING FIGURES AND HAS HAD PAST CONTACT WITH BOB MCNAMARA. (ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BE FURNISHED BY U.S. MISSION GENEVA.)
CHRISTOPHER

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